

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING TO
WIDEN KUAKINI HIGHWAY BETWEEN LAKO STREET AND
KAMEHAMEHA III ROAD ON HAWAII ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, vehicle traffic on Kuakini highway between Lako
2 street and Kamehameha III road on Hawai'i island typically causes
3 traffic jams lasting several consecutive hours in the mornings
4 and evenings; and

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6 WHEREAS, North Kona's population spiked by almost 4,000
7 people to nearly 42,000 total from 2010 through 2016, causing
8 additional traffic on Kuakini highway; and

9
10 WHEREAS, relieving the bottleneck surrounding where the
11 Queen Kaahumanu and Kuakini highways merge by widening the
12 roughly 1.7-mile stretch of Kuakini highway between the
13 highway's intersections at Lako street and Kamehameha III road
14 is necessary for the community's safety because of the amount of
15 traffic that moves through that area; and

16
17 WHEREAS, widening Kuakini highway to make an additional
18 lane may cost tens of millions of dollars, in part, because of
19 the need to acquire surrounding property; and

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21 WHEREAS, the federal government altered its priorities
22 toward the maintenance and safety of existing roadways rather
23 than the construction of new roadways; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the State has also modified its priorities toward
26 maintenance and safety of existing roadways as federal funding
27 is applicable and necessary for completion of this highway
28 widening project; and

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30 WHEREAS, easing traffic at one of Kona's most frustrating
31 pinch points on Kuakini highway between Lako street and



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1 Kamehameha III road, is in the best safety and public welfare
2 interests of the State; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
6 Representatives concurring, that the Department of
7 Transportation is requested to prioritize funding to widen
8 Kuakini highway between Lako street and Kamehameha III road on
9 Hawai'i island; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
13 Transportation and Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.

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15
16 OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Ferrell", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'K' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.